

ground level, which for higher levels, can affect the size and weight of the device, making it more difficult to place outside the building.

REPLY TO: EXAMINER'S CLAIM ASSESSMENT

Regarding claims 1 and 8-10: the applicant submits; not all hydraulic absorbers are equal in performance. For example: if the single piston like disc in the Clancaloni E.P.pat '196 develops a leaky disc seal, for any reason, the operator of the escape device will experience an uncontrolled descent, even with the control valve closed.

Also, if the threaded members seize, for any reason, the disc will rotate with the reel resulting in ; “free fall”, even with the control valve closed, again putting the rider “at risk”, without a means of braking.

An improvement over Henshaw and Clancaloni, is in the control system. This applicants device employs an on-off valve, in series, with the operator's variable speed control valve. Said valve, mentioned in present claim 5 as the “second” valve is in a normally open position, except when approaching the ground, at which time it is activated by the tail skid as the tail skid comes in contact with the ground, prior to the wheels “touching down”, saving the occupant from sudden impact .

The Henshaw device speed control can not be varied by the rider. It can only be “set” at the absorber fixed site. This is important in terms of rider fear, and safety, factor, as recognized by Clancaloni. Neither Henshaw, nor Clancaloni recognized the need for; an impact safeguard, in their hydraulic systems.

Also, it is desirable to include a hand, emergency, brake available such as shown in Fig 15., element No: 49, which overrides all hydraulic devices, to immediately stop downward travel at any time. This device is preferred over the emergency brake shown in Fig 17 as it is a quicker response device. An improvement over Grant results when the “guide discs” are replaced by; soft tire wheels, which roll on the surface of the wall during descent, are large enough to override sills, ledges and protrusions, and prevent rotation of twisted, wire rope, (with resultant operator “spinning”) by providing stability, with the wheels against the wall. These wheels also provide operator protection from scraping against the wall, or from being injured, or bruised, while in a downward motion. Grant’s discs perform none of these functions.

Grant uses his discs to provide guidance, with the face of the discs bearing on the tree surface.

They would perform the same function, if they were square, for example.

Stand-off is provided by a bracket with “tynes” and a curved member between “discs”. If Grant had considered; rolling rather than skidding, perhaps rollers would have been installed on the “tynes” and curved member?

Therefore, it is submitted, that patentable subject matter is clearly present. If the examiner agrees, but does not feel that the present claims are technically adequate, applicant respectfully requests that the examiner write acceptable claims, pursuant to MPEP 707.07(j).

RE: CLAIMS:

Claims: 1 through 5 to be rewritten.

Claims: 6 -10 are to be canceled.

Claims: 11-21 withdrawn

Claims to be added: Portable anchor clamp; automatic, pre-impact, hydraulic valve and tail skid; mechanical emergency stop brake.

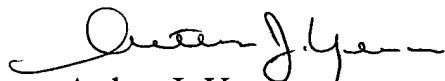
I am sure the examiner has plenty of work, without this request, and I will greatly appreciate help in what is for me is an impossible task, at this time. I have spent considerable time trying to write claims, only to start and start again, without success. I become confused with the legal terms used in codes. I apologize for relying

upon the busy examiner to write these claims but I am 70 years old, retired, and can no longer afford an attorney.

I would hope to learn from the examiners claim framing, if possible, and be able to write them myself, in the future.

If the examiner considers an interview to be; appropriate, beneficial, or necessary, it is possible for me, to travel to the Patent Office, to meet with the examiner, at his convenience.

Very respectfully,



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11 Feb 05
Arthur J. Yerman Date